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Decontrol of millets in the Ceded districts.

* 40 *Q.*—Sri N. SANKARA REDDI (on behalf of Sri B. Bhima Rao) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether decontrol of millets in the Ceded districts as from 28th December 1947 was duly promulgated and communicated to all the authorities in the districts concerned;

(*b*) whether one M. Siddayya was arrested by the Police of Bellary at 2 a.m. on 29th December 1947 and kept in Police lock-up till 9 a.m. on that day for bringing millets into the town of Bellary;

(*c*) whether a large crowd was collected at the Police station of Brucepet, Bellary, and made representations to the Police to the effect that the arrest was improper as millets had been decontrolled;

(*d*) whether the Police authorities stated that they had not received any intimation about it and hence they made the arrest; and

(*e*) what action the Government have taken in respect of the arrest made by the Police on that date?

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Yes; to all officers under the administrative control of the Collector.

" (*b*) On a report made by two constables at midnight on 28th December 1947 that M. Siddayya was importing 4½ bags of cholam to Bellary town, the Sub-Inspector of Brucepet Police station arrested M. Siddayya at about 12 midnight but immediately released him on bail. The stocks of cholam seized by him were released at 9 a.m. on 29th December 1947, i.e., within twelve hours of the seizure.

" (*c*) At 9 a.m. on 29th December 1947 merchants and others came to the Brucepet Police station and represented to the Sub-Inspector that as the decontrol of millets had been promulgated by tom-tom the grain seized from M. Siddayya should be released. This was done by the Sub-Inspector after verifying the truth of the representation made by the merchants, from the Collector's bungalow by phone. As Brucepet Police station is situated in the heart of the town, which is the busiest place, a crowd must have naturally collected at the Police station.

" (*d*) As the Sub-Inspector of Police was not officially made aware of the orders promulgated regarding the decontrol of millets he arrested M. Siddayya on the bona fide belief that he had committed an offence of importing rationed articles to a statutorily rationed area.

" (*e*) The Sub-Inspector of Brucepet Police station who was not aware of the decontrol of millets prior to the intimation given to him to this effect by the merchants and others at the Police station at 9 a.m. on 29th December 1947, arrested M. Siddayya on account of a mistake of fact and the District

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Superintendent of Police has been asked to satisfy himself that the action of the Sub-Inspector was on bona fide mistake of fact and done in good faith. The fact that the grains were being removed at about midnight seems to have aroused the suspicion of the Sub-Inspector."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" By whom was the tom-tom done? Was it done before the Police station? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The tom-tom was done by the Revenue authorities. It was meant to every one in the town, including the Sub-Inspector of Police."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" When this tom-tom was put up by the Revenue authorities; was it not communicated to the Police Sub-Inspector? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, the tom-tom was for the information of the public. But it is difficult to say whether it was within the hearing of the Sub-Inspector or the Police station."

Grant of bonus by the Government of India for procurement of grains.

* 41 *Q.*—SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government of India have promised a bonus of eight annas per maund of grain, procured in this Province from the surplus areas for this kharif year; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government propose to distribute manures freely to the producers as bonus who have surrendered grains in the surplus areas for the value of the amount granted by the Central Government as bonus?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Yes—in the Press Note [a] announcing the revised food policy published on 10th December 1947.

" (*b*) This Government have not yet decided as to how the amount promised to be granted by the Government of India as bonus should be utilized. The question will be examined in due course."

3–15 p.m. SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" Will the Government give due weight to the Press Communiqué of the Government of India, dated 8th December 1947, and supply at concessional rates manures and other commodities essential for production of foodgrains."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Bonus is being given by the Government of India and the hon. Member may rest assured that such instructions as are issued by the Government of India have been followed."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 43-44 infra.